

CHARGE QUESTIONS: NAC/GAC MEETING

~ September 14-15, 2017~

WASHINGTON, DC

~08/17/2017~

Dear NAC & GAC Members,

Since our last meeting in March 28-29, 2017, Canadian Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Catherine McKenna, hosted and chaired the CEC Council Session on June 27-28, 2017. The United States assumed the chairmanship of the Council and announced Oklahoma City, Oklahoma as the location of the 2018 Council Session. Also, the 2017-18 Operational Plan for the CEC was announced, with a strong focus on positively impacting the nexus between trade and the environment. The Council session also featured a dialogue with the youth and the public on how innovation can accelerate clean growth and advance North American competitiveness. In addition, the TEK Terms of Operation were updated and a commitment to a one-year cycle of NAPECA grants was announced.

Under the Operational Plan 2017–2018, the CEC will undertake ten cooperative projects that bring together experts on important environmental issues of regional concern, such as greening transport by reducing maritime shipping emissions, achieving legal and sustainable trade in select North American species, measuring and mitigating food loss and waste, protecting monarch butterflies and pollinators vital to food crops, advancing economic growth and conservation of migratory birds and habitats through ecotourism, and improving cost effectiveness and environmental protection through increased industrial energy efficiency.

In this context, the “**CHARGE**” for this meeting is to provide advice on how the Council can engage States, tribal nations and the private sector in North America to share their experiences advancing green growth, North American trade and environmental protection; and which exemplary activities and best practices being carried out by States, tribal nations and the private sector focused on advancing green growth could be highlighted at the 2018 Council Session.

As is customary for our meetings, you will also be briefed by the CEC Secretariat Executive Director, Cesar Chavez and the CEC Joint Public Advisory Committee Chair, Eric Dannenmaier. Finally, the committees are welcome to provide advice on other trade and environment issues related to the NAAEC.